

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR WEST VIRGINIA ABSENTEE BY MAIL AND EARLY VOTING

**Absentee voting by mail is for people who are unable for certain reasons to vote in person when the polls are open on election day - from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. - and are unable to go to the polls on election day.**

**Early voting in person is for ANY voter.**

## **EARLY VOTING IN-PERSON: BETWEEN 20th DAY BEFORE THE ELECTION AND THE 3rd DAY PRIOR TO ELECTION**

- \* You will be out of the county for election day.
- \* You may need to be out of town on election day.
- \* It is more convenient for you to vote early in person.
- \* ANY voter may vote early in-person for ANY reason.

## **ABSENTEE BY MAIL: BETWEEN 42ND DAY THROUGH THE 6TH DAY BEFORE THE ELECTION**

- \* You will be out of the county for election day and for early voting in person, for travel, employment, or education. Persons travelling must provide an address outside of the county for the ballot to be mailed.
  - \* You are physically unable to vote in person because of illness, hospitalization or physical disability, or because of incarceration or detention for a misdemeanor.
  - \* You are a member, spouse or dependent in the uniformed services, or residing overseas.
  - \* You are required to live temporarily outside your home county because of serving as an elected or appointed state or federal official, or temporary assignment of four years or less by your employer.
  - \* Both your polling place and the clerk's office are inaccessible to you because of a physical disability.
  - \* You are attending college or other place of education or training.
- If you are in one of these categories, complete the application by mail and return it to your clerk (or city clerk for city elections). It must be received no later than 6 days before the election.**

## **ABSENTEE BY FAX:**

**BETWEEN JANUARY 1 OF AN ELECTION YEAR  
THROUGH THE 6TH DAY BEFORE THE ELECTION**

- \* You are a member, spouse or dependent in the uniformed services, or residing overseas.
- \* A privacy waiver is required to be returned with your voted ballot.
- \* Ballots must be faxed back before the close of polls on election day.
- \* Tabulated as if received by mail.

## **When should you apply?**

**ABSENTEE BY MAIL:** Your application must be received by the clerk between **84 days (12 weeks) and six days** before an election, unless you are in the uniformed services or living outside the continental United States. In that case, you may apply for a ballot any time after January 1 of an election year, up to the sixth day before an election, and you may use the federal application form.

When your application is received, the clerk will send your ballot, two envelopes, instructions and supplies to vote absentee by mail. If the clerk finds you haven't completed the application as required, aren't registered, or has evidence any of the statements on your application aren't true, the clerk will notify you that your ballot will be a provisional ballot.

**ABSENTEE BY FAX:** Follow the absentee by mail procedures. Applicable only to military and overseas voters.

**EARLY VOTING IN PERSON:** Any voter may vote early in-person without stating a reason.

**Questions? Call the West Virginia Secretary of State or your County Clerk for more information.**